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THE ENGLISH DESCENT OF JOHN PLEASANTS (1645-1668),
OF HENRICO COUNTY, VIRGINIA.

By J. HALL PLEASANTS, Baltimore, Md.

(CONTINUED.)

II.

WILL OF WILL'M PLESANTS, 1583.

Extracted from the District Registry at Norwich.

In nomine dei amen the tenth day of September in the one and twentie yeere of the reigne of Elizabeth by the Grace of God Quene of Ingland ffrance & Ireland defender of the ffaith & in the yeere of our Lord god 1579 I Will'm Plesants of ye Parush of St. Poules w'th in the Cittie of Norwich now being sicke in body and in good and p'fect minde & memory thanks be given to god for the same do ordeyne declare & make this my last will & testam't in this forme following that is to saie first & before all things I will and bequeath my soule into hands of Allmightie god my Savior Jesus Christe by whose death & passion once offered uppon the Crosse for me and all mankinde I trust to be Saved and my body to be buried in the Church Yard of St Poules aforesaid. I'tm I give and bequeth towards the reparations of the Church of St Poules v s. to be paid w'thin one yere after my decease by my Executor. I'tm I give and bequeathe unto Thom's Plesants my Sone Twentie marks of Currant English mony to be paid to him by my Executors in this sorte viz. att that time he shall attain unto his age of XXte yeres fyve marks and from thenceforth yeerly and every yere one yere after another v marks until the said XXte mks be paid Provided and my will and minde is that if he dye before the said age of XXte yeres that my Executor shall reteine it to himselfe or in so much of the said XXte mks as att any time Shallbe behinde after the said Thom's shall come to the said age of XXte yeres and happening to dye during the tyme and continuacion of the yeerly payment of v mks aforesaid and I give and bequeathe and my will and minde is that John Parke and Johanne his wife shall have my tenem't w'th th app'tences wherein I now dwell to them during their lyves and the long'r liver of them So as they keep it in suche reparations & also inhabite in it themselves or ells lett it to the greatest price they can and allowe to my sonne Robrt Plesants iii s. viii d. every yeere that they or either of them lett itt and if they dwell in it them selves then they are to alowe nothing and the rest of all my goods & Chattells debbt's duties & in demandes of what kinde or qualitie so ever they be of I give them unto the said Rob't Plesants my sonne whom I constitute & make of this my last will and testam't my sole Executor he to take my debtt's & paie my debtt's and see my body honestly brought to

ye grounde. Witnesses of the same—Richarde Keche, Will'm Lose, Will'm Clarke & others.

Proved in the Archdeaconry Court of Norwich 18th October, 1583.

III.

EXTRACT WILL OF ALYCE PLESANTS, WIDOW, 1585.

Alyce Plesants of Norwich, wydowe. Soul to God & Body to the Earth; to poor people of the Parish of All Saints in Norwich 10s. yearly till 40s. be paid: to kinswoman Amy Walker £4, cubberd brasse pott the greatest that I have two pewter platters and two kettles, &c.; residue to John Walker and John Chase equally and appoints them Executors. Will dated 2 January, 1583.

(Not signed.)

Witnesses—John Kyrbye, Scr. John Berrye, Thomas Reeve.

(Codicil.)

To John Berrye son of John Berrye of St. Peter of Mancroft, Norwich, one brasse pott and one pewter dyshe left me by John Kirbye.

To Robert Newham son of William Newham 20s.

(No date or signature.)

Witnesses—Edward Atwood, Francis Gryppe.

Proved Norwich Archdeaconry, 30 April, 1585.

IV.

EXTRACT WILL OF ROBERT PLEASAINTE, 1591.

Robert Pleasainte of Norwich. Soul to God & body to be buried in Church Yard of All Saints Norwich to eldest son John house in parish of All Saints aforesaid for ever at 21, wife Johan use until such age; devise of house &c. in occupation of Peter Stewarde of Norwich Clothier situate in said Parish of All Saints from William Fiddell of Gorleston Suffolk by deed of feoffment to son Henrie at 21.

to eldest daughter Martha two tenements purchased of Thomas Turrolde and Agnes his wife for ever at death of said Wife Johan to said wife Johan house or tenement purchased of Robert Welch & Katherine his wife situate in said Parish of All Saints for life then to daughter Anne for ever.

to said wife Johan house in said Parish of All Saints in occupation of Phillipp Foster for life then to youngest daughter Lydia for ever.

to said wife all interest in lease from William Bleverhayset of Norwich Esquire of houses &c. tenements in St. Pauls, Norwich.

residue to Wife and appoint her Sole Executrix also Gregorie Newhouse of Norwich Worstead Wea. Supervisor with 51s.

Will dated 24 May, 1591.

(Not signed.)

Witnesses—Robert Withers, clerk—George Burie John Andrews—
and Richarde Parson.

Proved Consistory Court of Norwich 23 June, 1591.

V.

WILL OF JOHN PLEASANCE, 1640.

Extracted from the District Registry at Norwich.

In the name of God Amen y'e first day of November in the fifteenth yeare of Rainge of o'r most gracious Soveigne Lord King Charles of England Scotland ffrance & Ireland defend'r of the faith & Anno Dni 1639 I John Pleasance of the Citty of Norwich Worsted weav'r being of good & p'rfect memory (praised be God) doe declare & make this my p'resent Testam't & last Will in mann'r & forme following.

Imprimis & before all earthly & transitory things in the world I comend my Soule unto God the father maker & Creator of all things and unto God ye sonne my Saviour & unto the holy Ghost my Comforter being the blessed Trinity Three p'sons & one God hoping to be saved at the day of Resurrection amongst other faithfull & penitent sinners in by & throwgh the merritts death & passion of Jesus Christ my onelyv Saviour and my body I comitt to the earth there to be interred in Christian buriall at the discretion of my Executor. Item I give to the Minister for a Sermon to be preached att my buriall Thirteene shillings & foure pence and to the poore people inhabiting w'th in the s'd Citty of Norwich fferty shillings to be distributed amongst them att the discretion of my Executor And alsoe to the poore people inhabiting w'th in the p'ish of All Saints in Norw'ch Twenty shillings. Item I give & bequeath unto John Pleasance my sonne & to his heires for ev All that my messuage or Tenement w'th the Garden grounds entries buildings & app'rtenances therevunto belonging now rinted unto the p'ish of St. Saviour in Norw'ch w'ch I lately purchased of George Grundy Clarke To have & to hould the same to him the s'd John my sonne his heires & Ass's. upon condicon that he the s'd John my sonne his heires executor's admis's or Ass's. shall pay or cause to be paid unto Robt. Pleasance my sonne the some of fferty pounds of lawfull english money in mann'r & form following vidzt within one whole yeare next after the decease of Anne my wife Twenty pounds & within twoo yeares next after ye decease of ye s'd Anne my wife Twenty pounds in full payment of the s'd fferty pounds and if default of paym't shall happen to be made of ye s'd fferty pounds in mann & forme afores'd that then he ye s'd Robt. my sonne or his ass's shall enter into all my s'd messuage or Tenem't w'th their & ev'y of their app'rtenances & of ye p'fitts thereof he the s'd Robt. shalbe fully paid & satisfied ye s'd fferty pounds & evry p't thereof (any thing before to the contrary notw'thstanding)

Item I give & bequeath unto ye s'd Robt. my sonne forty pounds more of lawfull english money to be paid him w'th in one whole yeare next after the decease of me ye s'd John his father. Item I give & bequeath unto the s'd Anne my wife fouer pounds yearly & ev'y yeare during her n'rall life to be paid her or her Assignes quart'rly out of the afores'd messuage or Tenem't in liew & respect & in full satisfaccon of her dower or thirds issueing or to be issueing out of the same. Item whereas in consideracon of Marriage w'th ye s'd Anne my wife I have ent'red a wrighting obligatory & am become & stand bound unto Robt. Allen & Peter Stringer for the paym't of fifty pounds of lawfull english money w'th in six monthes next after my decease. My will & meaning is that my executor hereunder named shall pay or cause to be paid the s'd fifty pounds in such mann'r & forme as thereby I am bound as afores'd. Item I give and bequeath unto Margaret Pleasance my daughter forty pounds of lawfull English money to be paid her w'thin one yeare next after my decease. Item I give & bequeath unto my daughter Martha the wife of John Wilkinson twenty pounds of like money to be paid her or her ass's w'th in one yeare next after my decease. Item I give unto my daughter Marye Pleasance the some of forty pounds of like money to be paid hir w'th in one yeare next after my decease. Item I give & bequeath unto my daughter Elizabeth Pleasance ye summe of fifty pounds of like money to be paid her w'th in one yeare next after my decease. Item I give & bequeath unto Lidea Wilkinson widow ffive pounds of like money to be paid her by Tenne shillings a yeare if she be living. Item I give unto my sister Martha Carrington Twenty shillings to buy her a ring. Item I give unto Ledia Wilkinson the daughter of Ledia Wilkinson widow, Twenty shillings to be paid her w'th in a yeare next after my decease. Item I give & bequeath unto John Homes Three pounds of like money to be paid into the hands of the Churchwardens & Ouseeres at the p'ish of St. Augustine in Norw'ch towards the binding forth of the s'd John Homes to some tradsman they shall think fitt. Item I give & bequeath unto the child that Martha Willkinson is now bigg withall five pounds of like money And my meaning is that John Wilkinson husband of the s'd Martha uppon the receipt of the same ffive pounds shall enter into bond to my executor to pay the same to the s'd child at its age of one & twenty yeares the residue of all my goods Chattells wares merchandizes money plate household stuffe Implem'ts debts moveables & unmovables whatsoev. I give & bequeath unto the s'd John Pleasance my sonne which s'd John my son I ordaine & make sole executor of this my last will & testam't he to receive my debts & pay my debts & legacies formerly given & to see my body decently brought to the ground. And I doe entreate my brother Thomas Carrington to be ayding & assisting unto my said executor as my Supervisor And I give to him for his paynes

Twenty shillings in wittnes to this my last will & testament conteyned in three small sheets of pap. to ev'y of w'ch I have sette my hand writing & putte my Seale ioyntly to them all the day and yeare first above written & doe publish declare & deliv'r the same as my deede.

By me JOHN PLEASANTES.

In the pr'sence of Will'm Read-Henry Weedes & me John Manning.

Proved in the Consistory Court of Norwich the 21st day of December 1640.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

THE BROOKE FAMILY.

By Prof. ST. GEORGE TUCKER BROOKE, Morgantown, W. Va.

(CONTINUED)

(The instalments for July and October, 1908, were contributed by Dr. S. V. Brooke, Sutherland, Va.)

HUMPHREY BROOKE, OF FREDERICK COUNTY.^a

Humphrey Brook, of Frederick, is said to have been born about 1752. He was the son of Robert Brooke, of King William county, by his first wife, Anne Aylett.^b He married Sallie Page dau. of Robert Page of Broadneck. His granddaughter, writing under date of 13th May, 1905, says: "My cousin, Mary Braxton Page, asked me if my grandfather deserted the British Navy. I remember my grandfather perfectly; he *told me* he resigned from the British Navy in Colonial times." This settles the question that he was in the British Navy. This writer wrote to the Secretary for Naval Affairs, British Ministry, for proof that Humphrey Brooke was a midshipman in the British Navy in Colonial times but received no answer. But the tradition that he had been a student of Oxford is not well founded. In the large library of the Union Club at Oxford are several large volumes containing the names, ages and dates of matriculation of all the students of Oxford from the year 1500 to 1886. There are pages of Brookes with the final "e"—138 in all. The only one named "Humphrey" is entered as follows: "Humfrey s. of Robert of London, gent, St. John's College, matric 12 May 1637, aged 16—fellow College of Physicians 1674." In the library of Cambridge this writer could find no volumes containing the names of students other than graduates. Humphrey Brooke's name was not among those. If he was at school at all in England it seems probable that he was at some such school as Rugby, Eton, &c. Nor can this writer verify the tradition that Humphrey Brooke was a volunteer aide on Washington's staff,

^a Clarke county was not cut off from Frederick county until 1836.

^b See this Magazine, October, 1902, p. 197; *Ibid*, January, 1907, p. 327.